

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 12, 13, 19, 21, 23 and 25 as follows:

- 5 1. (Currently amended) ~~Animal~~ Bear excluding apparatus, comprising:
a body having an interior volume and an aperture formed therein; and
a threaded cap having at least one locking element associated therewith;
wherein said cap threads onto or off said body by the action of a human;
wherein said body and cap cooperate to exclude said bear from said interior volume.
- 10 2. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said cap comprises a lower edge, said
lower edge mating substantially flush with a corresponding surface of said body so as to
substantially eliminate any gap there between.
3. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 2, further comprising a ridge disposed proximate
said gap, said ridge substantially denying access to said gap by said animal.
- 15 4. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising a ridge formed proximate said
cap, said ridge substantially denying access to a gap formed between said cap and said body.
5. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said body is formed of polycarbonate,
and said cap is formed of nylon.
6. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said body and said cap coordinate to
20 dissipate energy applied to said apparatus by said animal without causing said cap to separate from
said body.
7. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said body is substantially smooth and
featureless so as to frustrate said animal in applying force thereto.
8. (Original) Bear excluding container apparatus, comprising:
- 25 a molded body having an interior volume and an aperture formed therein, said body further
comprising first threads and being adapted to withstand forces exerted by said bear; and
a molded cap having a locking element associated therewith and second threads, said cap
being retained on said body through at least cooperation of said first and second threads;
wherein access to said volume by said bear is frustrated by said locking element, said body,
30 and said cap.

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9. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein said locking element is adapted to require at least some distortion of at least one of said molded cap or body for said cap to be threadably removed from said body.

5 10. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein said body is substantially comprised of polycarbonate, and said cap is substantially comprised of a nylon-based polymer.

11. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 8, further comprising at least one exclusion ridge formed on said body proximate said cap and first and second threads, said at least one ridge being adapted to substantially shield a gap created between said cap and said body when said cap is threaded at least partly onto said body.

10 12. (Currently amended) ~~Animal~~ Bear excluding apparatus, comprising:
a body having an interior volume and an aperture formed therein, said body being adapted to withstand the application of forces applied by said bear;

a threaded cap having at least one locking element associated therewith, said cap threading onto said body and forming a gap there between; and

15 an exclusion ridge formed immediately proximate said gap, said exclusion ridge and said cap cooperating to prevent said ~~animal~~ bear from gaining access to said gap.

13. (Currently amended) Animal excluding container apparatus, comprising:

a one-piece body having an interior volume and an aperture formed therein communicating with said volume, said body further being formed of a rigid yet flexible polymer; and

20 a tamper-resistant polymer cap, said cap being threaded onto said body, said cap and body cooperating to dissipate forces applied to the exterior of said apparatus by said animal without providing access to said volume;

wherein said cap is specifically configured to be removed by a human using two hands.

14.-18. (Cancelled)

25 19. (Currently amended) A method of operating an animal excluding container apparatus having a body and threadedly engaged cap, said apparatus further comprising first and second interfering locking elements, the method comprising:

applying force, using two human hands, to said cap in at least one region to reduce said interference between locking elements; and

30 rotating said cap in cooperation with said act of applying, said rotating causing said locking elements to change relative position thereby allowing further rotation of said cap.

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20. (Original) The method of Claim 19, wherein said interfering locking elements each comprise a raised feature, and said act of applying comprises applying sufficient force to said at least one region to cause one of said first and second raised features to move with respect to the other, said moving reducing said interference.

5 21. (Currently amended) Tamper-resistant container apparatus manufactured by the method comprising:

forming a unitary molded polycarbonate body having an aperture therein and a first locking element thereon;

10 forming a nylon cap element adapted to threadedly engage said body, said cap element having a second locking element thereon, and

threading said cap element onto said body such that said first and second locking elements cooperate to frustrate subsequent removal of said cap by ~~other than adult humans~~ one or more bears.

22. (Original) Bear-excluding container apparatus, comprising:

15 a molded high-strength polymer body having an interior volume and an aperture formed therein, said body further comprising first threads and being adapted to withstand forces exerted by said bear;

a molded cap having a bottom edge, a locking element, and second threads, said cap being retained on said body through at least cooperation of said first and second threads; and

20 at least one exclusion feature disposed on said body proximate to said bottom edge of said cap and adapted to frustrate access by said bear to a gap formed by said bottom edge of said cap and said body when said cap is threaded at least partly onto said first threads;

wherein access to said volume by said bear is frustrated by at least the individual action of at least one of said locking element, said body, said exclusion feature, and said cap.

25 23. (Currently amended) Animal excluding apparatus, comprising:

a body having an interior volume and an aperture formed therein, said aperture being nearly the full diameter of said body at said body's widest point; and

a threaded cap having at least one means for frustrating removal associated therewith;

30 wherein said cap threads onto said body, and is configured to be removed with two hands.[[:]] and

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~~wherein said at least one means for frustrating removal also acts to mitigate moisture intrusion into said interior volume.~~

24. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 23, wherein said at least one means for frustrating removal comprises a ridge formed substantially proximate to a gap created between said body and threaded cap when said cap is threaded onto said body, said ridge mitigating access to said gap by said moisture.

25. (Currently amended) Animal excluding apparatus, comprising:

a body having an interior volume and an aperture formed therein;

a threaded cap having at least one means for frustrating removal associated therewith; and

a plurality of surface elements disposed on an exterior surface of said body;

wherein said cap threads onto said body; and

wherein said plurality of surface elements are adapted to provide ~~functionality selected from the group consisting of: (i) retention of one or more restraining devices; and (ii) anti rotation of said body during installation or removal of said cap.~~